

**Appln. No.: 09/273,021**  
**Amdt. dated February 27, 2004**  
**Reply to Office action of 12/30/2003**

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3, 10, 19 and 20 remain in this application with claims 1, 19 and 20 being independent and further amended.

Reconsideration of the previous rejection is respectfully requested. By reference, Applicant hereby incorporates the arguments set forth in the amendment filed on October 6th, 2003.

In addition, the claims have been amended to more clearly distinguish over the references by incorporating the description on page 7, line 17 to specify the building of an element list and assigning reference numerals in the order of first recitation of the element in the edited duplicate set of claims that build the description; and most importantly, that should the order of the elements in the edited duplicate set of claims forming the description change from the order in the original claims, the reference numerals in the element list will shift along with the shift in the order of first recitation of the elements in the description.

Besides the limitations previously argued as distinguishing, none of the references suggest building an element list in the order of first occurrence of the elements in the description with reference numerals assigned in that order and automatically shifting the order of the reference numerals in response to editing which changes the order of first recitation of the elements in the description. Accordingly, this combined with the recitations listed as items 1 through 6 on pages 14 and 15 of the previous abovementioned amendment clearly distinguish the claims over the prior art.

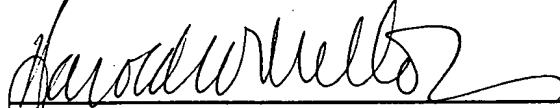
In summary, it is respectfully requested that this §116 amendment be admitted, or in the alternative, the final rejection be withdrawn and the amendment be admitted for continued prosecution on the merits. To that end, it is respectfully submitted that the

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Application, as amended, is now presented in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted

**HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.**

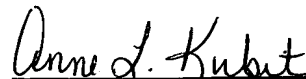


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**February 27, 2004**  
Date

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this Amendment and Request for Continued Examination (RCE) for Serial No. 09/273,021 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to **MAILSTOP: AF**, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on **February 27, 2004.**



Anne L. Kubit